

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dear members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

My name is Luis Garcia, I came to the United States approximately 16 years ago. I am in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS because this is an important step forward to get health insurance for all our immigrant community.

From the day I arrived I started working and I always pay my taxes. However, in the 16 years that I've lived here, I have only visited the emergency room once and it was because I had a great pain that I had been suffering from for some time. I was always afraid to go to the hospital because I knew that the charge for the service would be high, I just prepared myself teas and with some advil or Tylenol pills it passed, until I could not stand the pain anymore and I had to go to the emergency room and then I received a bill of \$600.00. I have not been able to settle that bill as I have tried to apply for financial assistance at the hospital but there is always one thing or another that prevents me from getting this help.

Today I am writing this letter to ask for help from the HUSKY program to maybe be able to get some type of medical insurance since it is very important to have an annual checkup, and it is something that I have not been able to do in all this time that I have been living in the United States, and at the same time, I believe that I am not the only person that is going through this situation.

In my opinion we are not asking for anything for free, at least in my case I pay taxes every time I go to buy something at the store or supermarket and even at my job. I only ask from my heart that you can support us with this request because it is for the good of all. We ask you to support the bill S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Health is very important for me to be able to work to provide food for my household, I do not want to imagine if someday I get seriously ill and leave my family alone.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Luis Garcia